

## Miss California Scholarship Rules and Regulations

The scholarships that are awarded at the annual Miss California Competition, are managed by a separate organization, Scholarship Associates, Inc., which is a 501(c)(3) charitable educational corporation, and are paid out according to the following conditions:

### 1) SCHOLARSHIP USAGE:

Scholarship funds may be applied to tuition, textbooks, academic fees and other appropriate mandatory educational expenses. All unusual or questionable items of expense must be referred to Scholarship Associates, Inc, with as much information as possible and far enough in advance for consideration and approval. Amounts received as scholarship payments are taxable income to the extent that they **exceed** "Qualified Tuition and Related Expenses." Those "Qualified" expenses required for enrollment or attendance of a student at an educational organization, include books, supplies, and equipment required of all students in the particular course of instruction.

Requests for a computer or musical equipment will be considered as long as the student is currently enrolled and needs this equipment for study. There will be a \$2000.00 cap on computer equipment, and this type of expense will be reimbursed only once. Computer software may also be considered as a reimbursable expense, but will be included in the \$2000.00 computer equipment cap. The original bill of sale for the requested equipment must be submitted as well as the original credit card receipt or a copy of the canceled check. All credit card accounts, and banking accounts must be in the name of the candidate in order to be considered. If a candidate still has local funds available to her, a letter from the Local Executive Director saying that they do not reimburse or pay for computers is required, along with the Scholarship Associates Disbursement Form (described in Section 2.)

Payments for on-campus room and board will be made directly to the educational institution. All such requests must be accompanied by appropriate documentation from the educational institution evidencing the charges for same. In order to qualify, candidates must maintain at least twelve (12) credit hours as a full-time student, nine (9) credit hours as a part-time student, or nine (9) credit hours as a graduate student. Scholarships payments do not cover key fees, deposits, or utilities (electric, gas, cable, phone, etc.)

Payment for approved expenditures (with the exception of computer or musical equipment) will be made directly to the college, university or other accredited post-secondary learning institution, as recognized by the US Department of Education.

*Please note, it is each candidate's obligation to determine whether the scholarship, in whole or part, is includable in gross taxable income. Candidates are encouraged to consult a tax advisor regarding the taxability of the scholarship payments.*

### 2) REQUESTING USAGE:

Initial requests for scholarships are made by using the Disbursement Form found on the [MissCalifornia.org](http://MissCalifornia.org) website, under the "Candidates" tab and the dropdown to "Request Your Scholarship." The candidate will send that form and the requested documentation to the Scholarship Chair of Scholarship Associates, Inc., listed on the bottom of the form.

Approved scholarship awards will be sent to the awardee in the form of a check made out to the educational institution, for her to give to the institution.

Candidates requesting scholarships at the state level must use the scholarships won at the local level prior to applying for state funds. Verification must be submitted in writing from the Local Executive Director that all local scholarship awards have been exhausted.

### 3) STUDENT LOANS

Scholarships may be used for outstanding student loan obligations provided the candidate has satisfactorily completed the coursework for which the loan was obtained. In all cases, requests must include a current bill from a bona fide third party lending institution as recognized by the US Department of Education, which must include: 1. a repayment address, 2. student account number and amount due, 3. A copy of the promissory note reflecting that the candidate is the primary responsible payer of the obligation, and 4. An official transcript reflecting the completion of the coursework.

Payment will be made by issuing a check made out to the lending institution and sent to the student for her to send and to assure that it is credited to the student's account.

### 4) DEADLINES AND FORFEITURES

*(Please note that this latest update, March 2020, lengthens the time you have to apply for your scholarship and eliminates any extension to these more liberal deadlines.)*

Scholarships may be used for current and future educational expenses, provided the following deadlines are heeded: **All scholarship recipients (other than Miss California) have a total of two (2) years from their award date, to use their Scholarship awards. Miss California has three (3) years,** but it is strongly recommended that she also take into consideration the Miss America Foundation rules, concerning their deadlines.

There will be no extension requests accepted or considered. If a scholarship recipient has not submitted a request with all the required documentation, to the Scholarship Chair at Scholarship Associates, Inc. by the deadline date, her right to request funds will be forfeited. If a candidate forfeits any money from her scholarship award at the local level, her award at the State and National levels will automatically be forfeited!

Consistent with these Rules and Regulations, the decision of Scholarship Associates, Inc. shall be final and binding.

I, (Candidate Name) \_\_\_\_\_ have read and understand the California Scholarship Rules and Regulations above:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)

Miss \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Title)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date